

GAMING MACHINE**CROSS-REFERENCE TO THE RELATED APPLICATION (S)**

[0001] This application is based upon and claims a priority from the prior Japanese Patent Application No. 2004-127170 filed on Apr. 22, 2004, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference. This application is related to co-pending U.S. application entitled "GAMING MACHINE", filed on even data with this application. The co-pending application is expressly incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] 1. Field of the Invention

[0003] The present invention relates to a gaming machine in which a video slot game is conducted.

[0004] 2. Description of Related Art

[0005] In conventional gaming machines, for example, a slot machine, a plurality of reels are rotated for a predetermined time and coins are paid out corresponding to a symbol combination which is displayed when all reels are stopped. And in a case that slot machines are roughly classified based on kinds of reels, there exist a mechanical type of slot machine in which plural reels on each outer periphery of which symbols are formed are rotatably provided and a video slot machine in which a plurality of hypothetical reels (graphics of reels), which are displayed on a display device, are rotated as shown in Japanese Unexamined Publication No. 2003-180908.

[0006] Here, in the video slot machine, there is no mechanical restriction against each of the reels. Therefore, for example, it can be independently prepared a plurality of reels used only for a base game and a plurality of reels used only for a bonus game. And in the base game the reels used only therefor are rotated on a display device, and in the bonus game the reels used only therefor are rotated on the display device. Thereby, progress of a video slot game conducted in the video slot machine can be variously changed.

[0007] However, in case of the bonus game, the reels used only for the bonus game are always rotated and stopped and thus a payout characteristic of the bonus game becomes substantially same in every time the bonus game is conducted. Accordingly, the player is rapidly accustomed to the bonus game in many cases, even if the reels used only for the base game and the reels used only for the bonus game are independently prepared as plural reels used in the video slot game and progress of the video slot game is variously changed.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0008] The present invention has been done to dissolve the above problems and has an object to provide a gaming machine in which a bonus game characteristic in the video slot game can be variegated.

[0009] In order to accomplish the above object, according to one aspect of the present invention, it is provided a gaming machine having a plurality of first reel strips used in a base game, a display device on which the first reel strips

are variably displayed and stopped, and a game controller for executing a video slot game including the base game and a bonus game on the display device,

[0010] the gaming machine comprising:

[0011] a plurality of second reel strips selectively used in the bonus game; and

[0012] a lottery device for determining at least one of the second reel strips used in the bonus game by a lottery;

[0013] wherein the game controller replaces at least one of the first reel strips with the second reel strip determined by the lottery device, and

[0014] wherein the game controller executes the bonus game to variably display and stop both the first reel strips remained after at least one thereof is replaced and the second reel strip determined by the lottery device on the display device.

[0015] That is to say, in the gaming machine according to the present invention, a video slot game including a base game and a bonus game is executed on a display device. At that time, at least one of the second reel strips determined by the lottery device is replaced with at least one of the first reel strips and the reel strips are variably displayed and stopped on the display device, thereby the bonus game is executed. Therefore, since there will exist many combinations of the first reel strips and at least one of the second reel strips, both reel strips being variably displayed and stopped on the display device while the bonus game is executed. Accordingly, the bonus game characteristic in the video slot game can be variegated.

[0016] And according to another aspect of the present invention, it is provided a gaming machine having a predetermined number of first reel strips used in a base game, a display device on which the first reel strips are variably displayed and stopped, and a game controller for executing a video slot game including the base game and a bonus game on the display device,

[0017] the gaming machine comprising:

[0018] second reel strips one of which is selectively used in the bonus game; and

[0019] a lottery device for determining the one second reel strip used in the bonus game by a lottery;

[0020] wherein the game controller prepares a plurality of strip combinations being comprised of a number of the first reel strips, the number being obtained by subtracting one from the predetermined number, and the one second reel strip determined by the lottery device, and

[0021] wherein the game controller selects one of the strip combinations and executes the bonus game to variably display and stop both the first reel strips and the one second reel strip included in the one strip combination on the display device.

[0022] According to the gaming machine of the present invention, a video slot game including a base game and a bonus game is executed on a display device. At that time, the game controller prepares a plurality of strip combinations being comprised of a number of the first reel strips, the